

box and put a nosegay into it of such flowers as we thought had most honey and were then to be met with; particularly the Alpine Coltsfoot which attracts Flies and Butterflies, but the next morning it appeared to have been quite stationary and not to have gone to the flowers.

I was now to paint it flying, and having finished the upper wings it became necessary for me gently to put them open to see the body and underwings. We were apprised that when taken this Moth made a noise by the means, as it is said, of striking the tongue against the palpi, we were therefore prepared to hear it, as we supposed the disturbing it, however gently, would produce it — in fact it did, it resembled the softest chirp of a bird — we heard it often, as every time I had occasion to move it, it generally gave its chirp, when it had moved more, and was become in a degree restless, it ceased to make it.

It was however generally very quiet; once or twice it fled a little about the room and came against my check with such strength as to give rather a smart blow — at night it was again put into its box and remained still as before — The next day it was carried in a band-box to Shrewsbury as Mrs. P. Windsor had requested to see it and I thought Dr. DuGard would be gratified by a sight of it and I wished Miss Adams to see what the Caterpillar had produced — I sent it by our servant on foot — He brought it back in the evening not in the least injured by its journey — It had before paid a visit to the Hall and been seen by the family, it now went again for the servants to see it.

We brought it back, and towards twilight we turned it out in our kitchen garden, and had the pleasure to see it take its flight with great vigour — We soon lost sight of it as it flew to the grove”.

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NOTES ON REARING THE COMMON BLUE BUTTERFLY (*POLYOMMATUS ICARUS* ROTT.) — In early April, I received a gift of six larvae from eggs laid by a female *P. icarus* f. *caerulescens* Wheeler. The larvae were feeding on *Lotus corniculatus* (bird's-foot trefoil). Drought and high temperatures had dried up all the food-plant — the donor of the larvae was feeding his on fresh pods of *Lotus edulis*, but as this plant was not available to me I tried fresh, tender examples of broad bean, *Vicia faba*. By removing the skin and splitting the bean, the young larvae were able to feed on the tender flesh of the bean. As they grew, they were able to bore into whole beans.

All the larvae pupated successfully, producing one male and five female f. *caerulescens*. This useful technique of using solid food may have wider application when breeding some of our butterflies. ANTHONY VALLETTA 257 M'sida Street, B'Kara, Malta.